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Message Text

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PAGE 01 QUITO 04959 141449Z

44-R
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /011 W
---------- 008272
R 141414Z JUL 76
FM AMEMBASSY QUITO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 820

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PDIP
SUBJ: ECUADOREAN REACTION TO BICENTENNIAL

REF: A) STATE 169682 B) QUITO 4796

1. REF A REQUESTED SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REACTIONIN ECUADOR TO US BICENTENNIAL. REF B REPORTED SUMMARY OF PRESS REACTION.

2. NOTEWORTHY FACT OF PRESS TREATMENT WAS ITS EXTENSIVENESS, BOTH IN TERMS OF COLUMN INCHES OF STOREIS AND FAVORABLE EDITORIALS, AND VAST AMOUNT OF PAID ADVERTISING IN HONOR OF BICENTENNIAL. MOST ADVERTISERS HAD DIRECT US COMMERICAL TIES, BUT BY NO MEANS ALL.

3. ON JULY 6 GOE SPONSORED A CONCERT BY NATIONAL SYMPHONY IN HONOR BICENTENNIAL, PLAYING AMONG OTHER THINGS COPLAND'S /RODEO, SUBSECRETARY FONOFF MADE A PARTICILAR POINT OF IMPRESSING ON AMBASSADOR THAT GOE WAS TAKING THIS INITIATIVE BOTH IN VIEW OF IMPORTANCE TO WORLD OF BIECENTENNIAL AS WELL AS A GESTURE OF KEEPING WITH GOE'S DESIRE IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH US.

4. ON INITIATIVE OF QUITO'S MAYOR SIXTO DURAN, HE, ACCOMPANIED BY CITY COUNCIL LAID A WREATH AT STATUE OF LINCOLN IN QUITO'S "PLAZA LINCOLN." MUNICIPAL BAND PLAYED BOTH COUNTRY'S ANTHEMS. THIS GESTURE WAS ENTIRELY SPONTANEOUS AND,AS FAR AS WE KNOW, UNV
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ECEDENTED.

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5. EUCADOREAN AIR FORCE LENT THEIR AND TO PLAY AT THE BICENTENNIAL PICNIC FOR THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY JULY 3.

6. OTHER MEDIA ACTIVITIES INCLUDED ONE HOUR PROGRAM OF FOLK MUSIC ON TV AND A LENGTHY RADIO SPORTS SPECIAL, BOTH IN NONOR OF THE BICENTENNIAL.

7. ALTHOUGH THERE WAS NO SPONTANEOUS OUTPOURING OF GENUINE INTEREST ONTHE PART OF THE MAN ON THE STREET, KEY ELEMENTS IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS DID INDEED SHOW A DESIRE TO SHRAE IN OUR CELEBRATION. THE IMPRESSION ONE RECEIVED WAS THAT JUST ABOUT EVERYONE, EXCEPT DIED-IN-THE WOOL ANTI-AMERICANS, WERE REMINDED BY THE OCCASION THAT, IN SPITE OF OUR MISTAKES AND OUR SHORTCOMINGS, THE UNITED STATES WAS STILL "THE LAST, BEST HOPE FOR MAN." BLOOMFIELD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ullricre
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976QUITO04959
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760271-0096
From: QUITO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760759/aaaabzyq.tel
Line Count: 78
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 169682, 76 QUITO 4796
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ullricre
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 JUL 2004 by SmithRJ>; APPROVED <04 NOV 2004 by ullricre>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ECUADOREAN REACTION TO BICENTENNIAL
TAGS: PDIP, PFOR, EC, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006